

## What are the various types of trains?

Trains differ, but passenger and freight trains can share the same track and the same safety tips apply.



### SUBWAYS

Serving major cities, these trains operate at least part of their route underground. They are often powered with a "third rail" lying next to the regular track.



### LIGHT RAIL

These tend to service city centers with more frequent service and shorter travel distances than commuter trains. They may be off-street or on-street, almost always operate on electric power (usually supplied by overhead lines), and each system tends to have its own distinctive "look."



### COMMUTER RAIL

These generally connect suburbs with cities. They may operate on electric power supplied by overhead power lines or use diesel locomotives. They usually look more like long-distance trains than light rail trains.



### INTERCITY TRAINS (Amtrak)

Intercity trains connect small and large cities across America. These trains have both single-level and double-level railcars and a distinctive logo.

Operation Lifesaver is a non-profit international public education program first established in 1972 to end collisions, deaths and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and on railroad rights-of-way.

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The program is supported by a wide variety of partners, including federal, state and local government agencies, highway safety organizations, law enforcement, the nation's railroads and their suppliers.

### HOW DOES OPERATION LIFESAVER WORK?

Operation Lifesaver's certified volunteer speakers give free rail safety presentations to people of all professions and age groups.

Learn about Operation Lifesaver's educational brochures, videos, and training information by visiting [www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org).

### IS THERE AN OPERATION LIFESAVER OFFICE IN MY STATE?

Operation Lifesaver state coordinators are located in 50 states and the District of Columbia.

### HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPERATION LIFESAVER, BECOME A VOLUNTEER, OR SCHEDULE A PRESENTATION?

Find your state coordinator at [www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org) or call 1-800-537-6224.

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**PH** 703-739-0308  
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*Photos courtesy of the American Public Transportation Association*

## Key Safety Tips Around Commuter, Subway & Light Rail Trains

PROVIDED IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY

S	45	PORT JERVIS LINE	5
	415	MORRIS & ESSEX	10
	1153	BERGEN COUNTY LINE	5
	1111	MAIN LINE	12
TC	851	MORRIS & ESSEX	17
	417	MORRIS & ESSEX	13
		WEST THREE CARS	

Train Service to Newark Int'l Airport Station



FOR PASSENGERS, PEDESTRIANS & MOTORISTS





## Around the Tracks



### LOOK BOTH WAYS - ANY TIME IS TRAIN TIME.

Trains can run on any track, in any direction, at any time. Trains can run after-hours as well as during scheduled service times.

### TRAINS CANNOT SWERVE.

Trains do not have steering wheels. They must follow the tracks.

### TRAINS CANNOT STOP IMMEDIATELY.

While a car traveling 55 mph can stop in about 200 feet, a train may need between 600 feet and a mile to stop, depending on the type of train.



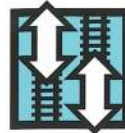
### TRAINS ARE WIDER THAN THE TRACKS.

Trains are wider than the tracks by at least three feet on each side. A bridge or tunnel that appears to have plenty of clearance may actually only provide a few inches of space when the track is occupied by a train. Watch pavement markings when parking your car along train tracks that share street lanes.

### STAY AWAY FROM POWER LINES AND "THIRD RAILS."

Many passenger trains are powered by overhead electric wires or live "third rails" lying next to the train track, which are powered by electric substations located along the railroad rights-of-way. It is dangerous to play around or throw things onto power lines, "third rails," or into substations and electric facilities.

## At the Station & on the Train



### STAY ALERT.

Trains can come from either direction at any time and can be very quiet. Obey all signs, announcements, and signals. Some commuter trains have locomotives at the back instead of the front, and many are controlled by "cab cars" that don't look like locomotives at all.

### WATCH THE OVERHANG.

Trains are wider than the tracks. Never sit on the edge of a station platform.

### STAND AWAY FROM THE TRAINS.

Pay attention to painted or raised markings at the platform edge, and stay at least three feet from the train while it is coming in or out of the station to avoid being snagged by any loose straps or bags you are carrying.

### WHEN ONBOARD, HOLD ON.

Hold on tight to poles or seats, and listen carefully to directions the train operator or conductor may give. Be careful getting on and off the train - there may be a gap between the train and platform or steps to negotiate down to ground level.



### DON'T TAKE SHORTCUTS WITH YOUR LIFE!

Follow directional signs and markings that let you know where it is safe to cross the tracks. Crossing the tracks anywhere else is dangerous and illegal. An ill-timed shortcut can have deadly consequences.

## Crossing the Tracks



### CROSS ONLY AT DESIGNATED CROSSINGS.

Whether on foot, on a bike or skateboard, or in a car, cross only at crossings marked by signs, signals, or pavement markings - and obey any and all warnings, signals, lights and signs.

### DON'T "ANTICIPATE" YOUR TURN.

When sharing street lanes with trains, be sure to leave at least a car length between your car and the tracks. Don't "anticipate your turn" in a way that leaves you in the path of an oncoming train.



### OBEY SIGNS AND SIGNALS.

Flashing lights and/or lowering gates signal that a train is approaching. Stop when the lights begin to flash, and do not proceed until it is safe to do so. If the gates are still down, do not proceed until the gates go up. Be careful - a second train could be behind the first or coming from the opposite direction on adjacent tracks.

### IF YOU SEE A TRAIN COMING, WAIT!

Don't be tempted to beat a train. The size and angle of a train creates an optical illusion. Approaching trains are closer and traveling faster than they appear.

